BLITZ PHOENIX

Chapter 9: The Fool

Emily Brackhan

http://www.blitzphoenix.com/

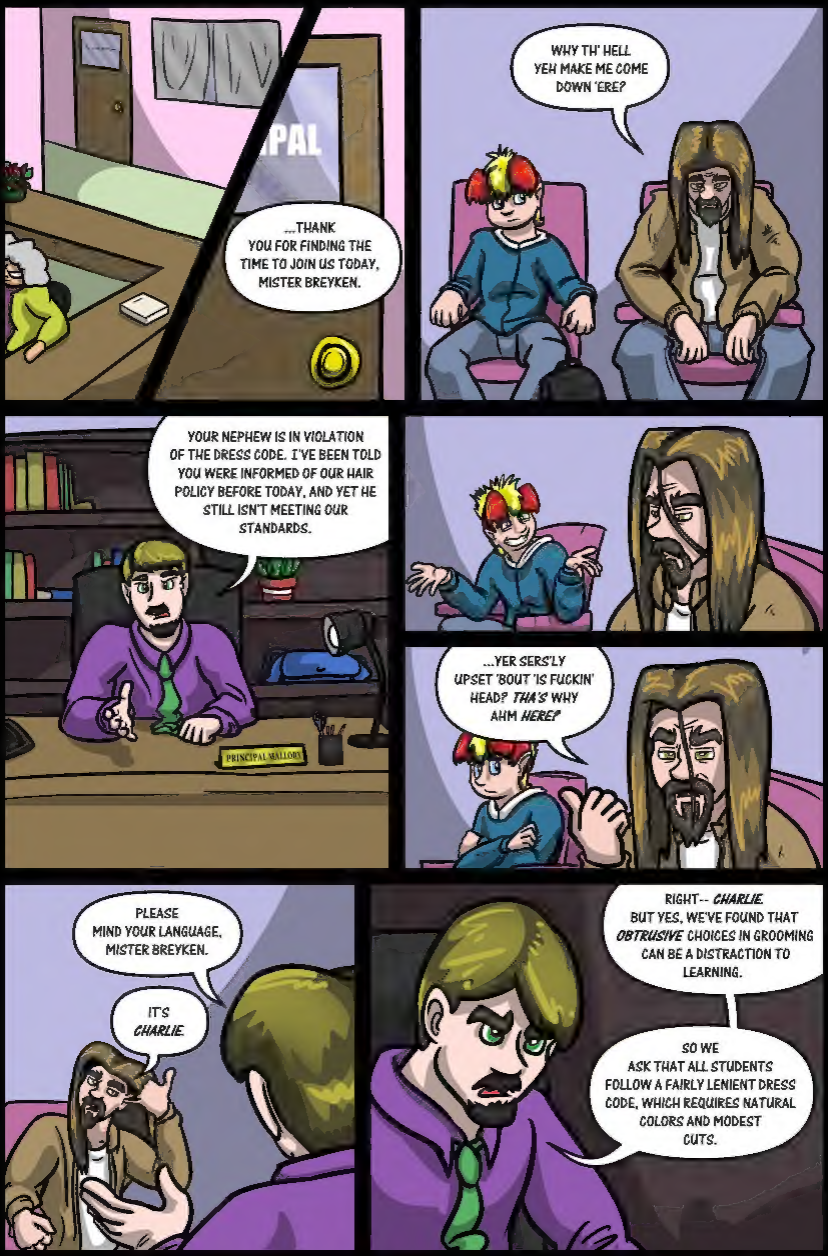
YOU GO ANYWHERE FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK?
WE HAD SOME FAMILY COME VISIT FOR THE WEEK. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WE WENT OUT TO CALIFORNIA TO SEE MY BROTHER.
WHAT CLASSES DO YOU HAVE THIS SEMESTER?
I HAVEN'T LOOKED YET.
BLEH! WE ONLY HAVE *ONE* CLASS TOGETHER! HOW LAME.
OH, WHAT ABOUT THAT GUY WE MET JUST BEFORE BREAK? THE GUY WHOSE HAIR WE CUT?
...TERRY? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM. I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WITH FINALS AND FAMILY.
YOU WORRIED?
THE LAST THREE KIDS WE'VE ADDED TO OUR GROUP ENDED UP DITCHING US. IT'D BE NICE TO ACTUALLY KEEP SOMEONE FOR ONCE.
OH, IS THAT HIM?
... *WELL* MAYBE IT'LL BE HARDER FOR HIM TO WANDER OFF.

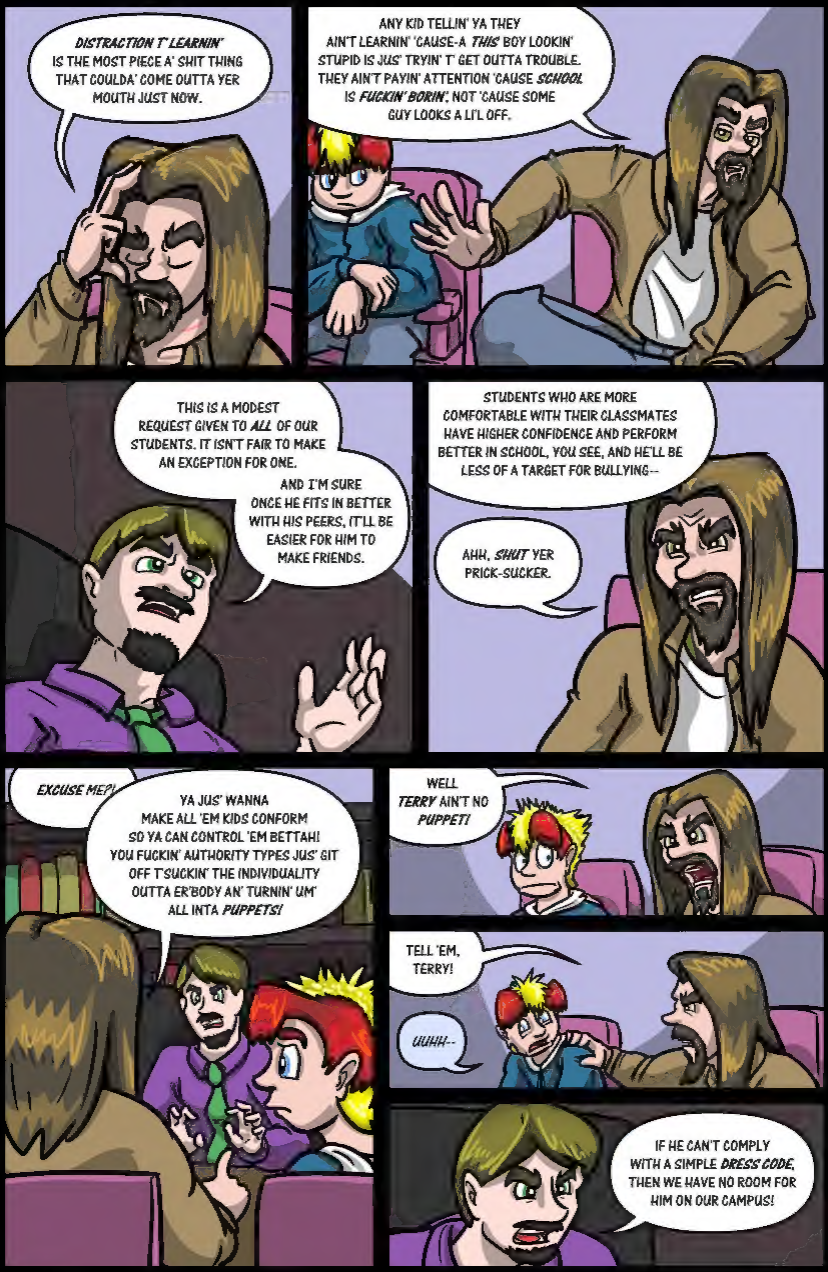
TERRY!!
YOU WENT WITH THAT HAIRCUT AGAIN? I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOUR HAIR WAS BLACK?
I *OBVIOUSLY* DECIDED THIS HAIRSTYLE WASN'T THAT BAD, SO MAYBE I'LL JUST ROCK IT FOR A WHILE.
YEEEAAAHH...
WHEN I SAID I THOUGHT YOUR HAIR TURNED THOSE COLORS, I WASN'T REALLY EXPECTING TO BE *RIGHT*.
YOU *WEREN'T*. I *TOLD* YOU, MY HAIR'S *BLACK*.
I JUST--
OBVIOUSLY
--DYED IT BACK.

BUT THE SCHOOL DRESS CODE WON'T LET YOU HAVE COLORS THAT AREN'T NATURAL.
THINK MAYBE THEY'LL FORGET? OR NOT CARE?
NOT A CHANCE.
THE GRUMBUMS HERE HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN GET THEIR DIAPERS IN A TWIST OVER HOW KIDS DRESS.
I'VE DEALT WITH IT TOO. THEY AREN'T REASONABLE.
COULD I GET AWAY WITH WEARING THE HAT, THEN?
NO HATS OR HOODS IN THE BUILDING.
WELL CRAP.
WHAT IF...
THEY *AREN'T* GOING TO LET YOU KEEP IT, DUDE. TRUST ME.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO GET A HAIRCUT AND COME IN LATE, BECAUSE THEY'LL JUST SEND YOU HOME ANYWAY.
WELL THAT DOESN'T REALLY WORK FOR ME, SO I'LL JUST GIVE THIS A SHOT.
SUIT YOURSELF, I GUESS.

PHONES OFF
HOMEWORK
Pg 13
#1-10
#14-21
HAT'S OFF IN THE BUILDING, GABRIEL.
HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE MY STUFF!
YOU KNOW THE RULES, YOU'LL GET IT BACK AFTER CLASS.
THIS IS BULL!
IF YOU'D JUST KEEP IT OFF, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO TAKE IT FROM YOU.
YOU TOO, BUD.

HO-LY HELL.
YOU'RE THE ONLY FACE HERE I DON'T RECOGNIZE, SO I TAKE IT YOU'RE TERRY.
YEAH...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY LET YOU DO IN YOUR LAST SCHOOL, BUT HERE IN FLATBROOK HIGH, WE HAVE A GROOMING POLICY.
OH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA, MAYBE I'LL LOOK IT OVER LATER--
THE POLICY ISN'T A SUGGESTION, IT'S A RULE
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T LET YOU KEEP THAT IN MY CLASS. HEAD DOWN TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE AND TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT.
BUT--
SORRY, DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.
LOOK, I'M NOT GOING TO PRETEND I UNDERSTAND WHAT'S IN-STYLE WITH YOU KIDS THESE DAYS...
BUT TRUST ME, THAT LOOK ISN'T DOING YOU ANY FAVORS.
NOW GET OUT OF HERE.


PAL
...THANK YOU FOR FINDING THE TIME TO JOIN US TODAY, MISTER BREYKEN.
WHY TH' HELL YEH MAKE ME COME DOWN 'ERE?
YOUR NEPHEW IS IN VIOLATION OF THE DRESS CODE. I'VE BEEN TOLD YOU WERE INFORMED OF OUR HAIR POLICY BEFORE TODAY, AND YET HE STILL ISN'T MEETING OUR STANDARDS.
PRINCIPAL MALLORY
...YER SERS'LY UPSET 'BOUT 'IS FUCKIN' HEAD? *THA'S* WHY AHM *HERE?*
PLEASE MIND YOUR LANGUAGE, MISTER BREYKEN.
IT'S *CHARLIE.*
RIGHT-- *CHARLIE.* BUT YES, WE'VE FOUND THAT *OBTRUSIVE* CHOICES IN GROOMING CAN BE A DISTRACTION TO LEARNING.
SO WE ASK THAT ALL STUDENTS FOLLOW A FAIRLY LENIENT DRESS CODE, WHICH REQUIRES NATURAL COLORS AND MODEST CUTS.


DISTRACTION T' LEARNIN' IS THE MOST PIECE A' SHIT THING THAT COULDA' COME OUTTA YER MOUTH JUST NOW.
ANY KID TELLIN' YA THEY AIN'T LEARNIN' 'CAUSE-A THIS BOY LOOKIN' STUPID IS JUS' TRYIN' T' GET OUTTA TROUBLE. THEY AIN'T PAYIN' ATTENTION 'CAUSE SCHOOL IS FUCKIN' BORIN', NOT 'CAUSE SOME GUY LOOKS A LI'L OFF.
THIS IS A MODEST REQUEST GIVEN TO ALL OF OUR STUDENTS. IT ISN'T FAIR TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR ONE.
AND I'M SURE ONCE HE FITS IN BETTER WITH HIS PEERS, IT'LL BE EASIER FOR HIM TO MAKE FRIENDS.
STUDENTS WHO ARE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH THEIR CLASSMATES HAVE HIGHER CONFIDENCE AND PERFORM BETTER IN SCHOOL, YOU SEE, AND HE'LL BE LESS OF A TARGET FOR BULLYING--
AHH, SHUT YER PRICK-SUCKER.
EXCUSE ME?!
YA JUS' WANNA MAKE ALL 'EM KIDS CONFORM SO YA CAN CONTROL 'EM BETTAH! YOU FUCKIN' AUTHORITY TYPES JUS' GIT OFF T'SUCKIN' THE INDIVIDUALITY OUTTA ER'BODY AN' TURNIN' 'UM ALL INTA PUPPETS!
WELL TERRY AIN'T NO PUPPET!
TELL 'EM, TERRY!
UUHH--
IF HE CAN'T COMPLY WITH A SIMPLE DRESS CODE, THEN WE HAVE NO ROOM FOR HIM ON OUR CAMPUS!

SO WHAT KINNA PROPONENT A' EDUCATION KEEPS A KID FROM LEARNIN' JUST 'CUZ HIS HAIRCUT SUCKS? SOUNDS T' ME LIKE YER THE BULLY, 'ERE.
HE HAS DOG EARS!
WELL IF YEH'D LET ME TALK FER JUST A MINUTE, AH'D BE HAPPY T'TELL YA HE CAIN'T DO NOTHIN' 'BOUT IT.
HIS HAIR'S STUCK THAT WAY, WE ALREADY TRIED T' TAKE CARE-A' IT.
OH, PLEASE!
CHARLIE--
NAH, REALLY! HE'S GOT HAIRITIS.
...WHAT?
HAIRITIS. I'S WHERE YER DUMB FUCKIN' HAIR GROWS BACK SUPA QUICK AN' IN DUMBASS COLORS.
VERY SERIOUS, VERY TERMINAL DISEASE.
HAIR... ITIS.
YES.
TELL ME, JUST HOW STUPID DO YOU THINK I AM?
PRETTY FUCKIN' STUPID BUT AH DUN SEE WHAT THAT HAS T'DO WIT' MY NEPHEW'S DISEASE.

HAIRITIS IS NOT A DISEASE!
UH, IS YOU A DOCTOR? AH DUN FUCKIN' THINK SO! SO YOU DON'T GIT TA SAY WHAT IS AND WHAT AIN'T A DISEASE!
LOOK, AH'LL EVEN PROVE IT TO YEH!
IF YOU WANT TO PROVE IT, JUST BRING A SIGNED DOCUMENT FROM A DOCTOR--
WHAT THE HELL, CHARLIE!
HOL' STILL.
DON'T DO THAT HERE! YOU'RE MAKING A MESS!
YEH KEEP THAT 'ERE AN' SEE THA' HE'LL 'AVE GROWN IT BACK B'FORE THE DAY'S OVA. AH SWEAR T'YEH.

THIS IS RIDICULOUS! IF HE DOESN'T HAVE THAT ALL TRIMMED AND COLORED BY TOMORROW, HE'S EXPELLED! DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT OR ARE YOU TOO INBRED?!
INBRED?! AH'LL HAVE YEH KNOW MY LINE IS OF THE HIGHEST CLASS!
TAKEO, COULD YOU SPEED THIS UP?
YOU, SIR, 'AVE LOST MAH VOTE FER TH' NEXT TERM!
YOU DON'T ELECT SCHOOL PRINCIPALS!
ONE MOMENT
SURE YA DO' THEY VOTE FER'UM ER'RY FEW YEARS!
THAT'S THE BOARD OF EDUCATION!
INN AT THE SAME THING?
HEY
AH-HA! YA SEE FER YERSELF! IT'S ALREADY BACK!
BUT HOW?
AH TOLD YEH! HAIRITIS!
CUT THIS OFF NOT TWO MINUTES AGO AN THE DAMN THING'S BACK!

THIS POOR KID IS *DYIN'* AN' PEOPLE LIKE YOU WANNA GIVE HIM AN' 'IS UNCLE SHIT YE AUGHT-TA BE ASHAMED OF YERSELF, PRINCIPAL MALARKEY
THE *NAME* IS *MALLORY* AND WHILE I APOLOGIZE FOR THE..
MISUNDERSTANDING.
I'LL INFORM THE STAFF NOT TO BOTHER HIM ABOUT THIS AGAIN.
BUT FOR ANY *FUTURE* MEDICAL CONDITIONS, YOU *MUST* BRING IN SOME SORT OF FORM FROM A LISCENSED PROFESSIONAL.
THANK YEH FER BEIN' *SO* UNDERSTANDIN' OF MAH NEPHEW'S NEEDS
NOW IF YEH MAKE ME COME DOWN 'ERE 'BOUT THIS AGAIN, MAH BOOT WILL BE GOING SO FAR UP YER ASS, YEH'LL BE COUGHIN UP MAH SHOELACES
GET OUT!!
PRINCIPAL

.. AND IF ANY OF YOU JOKESTERS WANT TO CIRCLE THE DIAGRAM WHEN ASKED TO "FIND X", OR ANY OTHER "CLEVER" ANSWERS, YOU'LL BE STAYING AFTER SCHOOL
BACK ALREADY?
YOU'RE KIDDING
FIND ONE OF THE EMPTY SEATS AND SIT DOWN.
...is he serious!?
you're right, he does look like the blitz phoenix guy
WHOA, WHAT THE HELL! SOMEBODY MISSED HALLOWEEN!
ALRIGHT EVERYONE, THAT'S ENOUGH NOISE, LET'S GET BACK TO CLASS

HEY! HOW COME HE GETS *HIS* HAT BACK? AND ISN'T COLORED HAIR AGAINST THE RULES?
HE HAS AN EXEMPTION.
WHAT FOR?
THAT'S *ENOUGH*, GABE.
HAIRITIS?
SHHP!
YOU GOT SOME KINDA RASH AND YOU GET A PASS ON THE DRESS CODE?
IT'S *TERMINAL*
WHAT A LOAD OF HORSES—
NO SWEARING, GABRIEL.

YO HAIRITIS! WHAT'S UP?
HOW MUCH YOUR PARENTS PAY OFF THE TEACHERS SO YOU COULD WALK AROUND LIKE THAT?
IS IT CONTAGIOUS?
FUCK OFF
WELL THAT'S NOT VERY NICE, SQUIRT I'M JUST ASKING SOME FRIENDLY QUESTIONS! GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW KID AND ALL!
... THINKING IT'S KINDA BULL YOU GET TO JUST BEND THE RULES, Y'KNOW?
HE LOOKS LIKE THAT GUY FROM THAT KIDS SHOW BLITZER OR SOME SHIT
BLITZER. HUH?
IS THAT YOUR NAME?

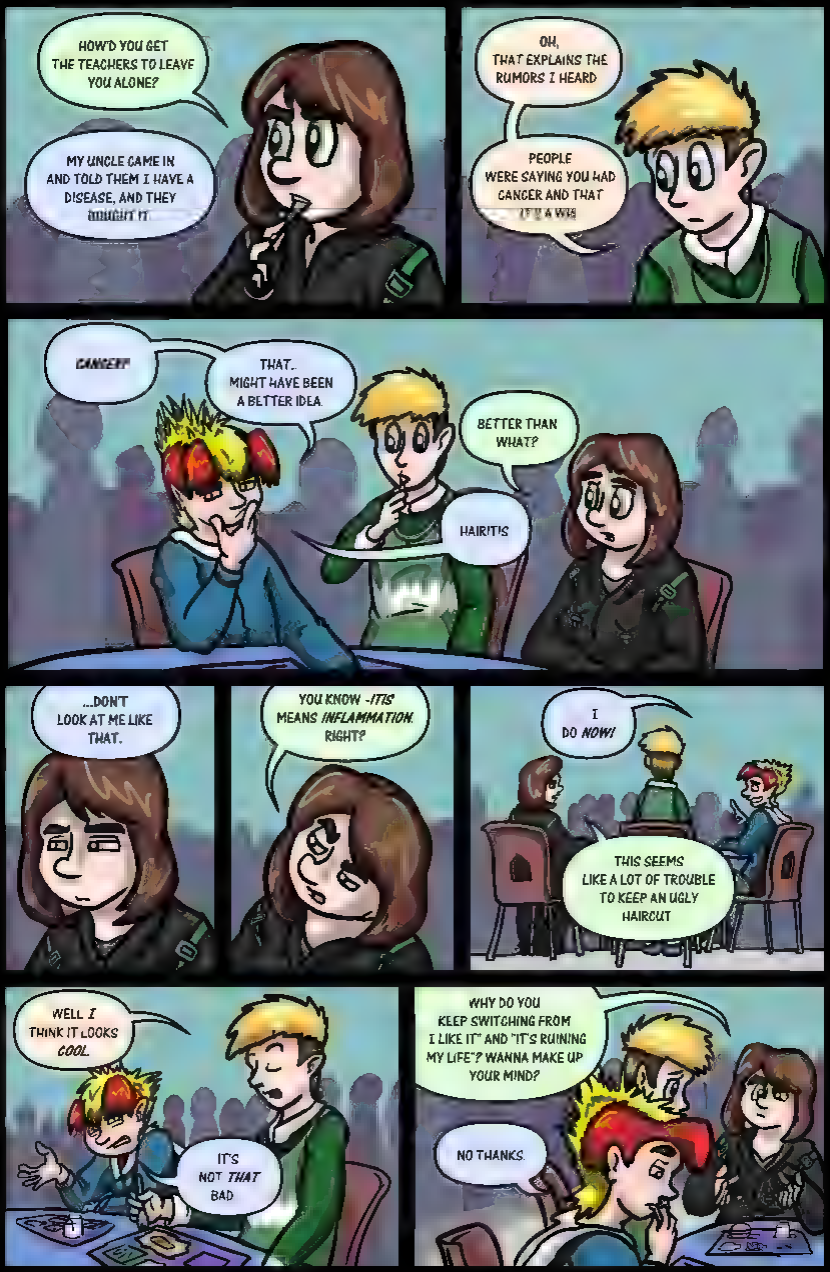
IT'S TERRY
TERRY? THAT'S BORING I LIKE BLITZER MORE.
OF COURSE YOU DO.
GOTTA SAY, YOU'RE EITHER REALLY BRAVE OR REALLY STUPID TO COME TO SCHOOL LOOKING LIKE SUCH A JACKASS.
BETTER THAN SMELLING LIKE ONE.
AWW, I'M NOT GETTING ON YOUR NERVES, AM I?
WELL WE'RE BUSY MEN WITH PLACES TO BE, BUT I WANTED TO STOP BY AND MAKE SURE YOU GOT A PROPER WELCOME!
SLAM
CLCK
HA HA HA HA HA HA
WELCOME TO FLATBROOK HIGH, BLITZER!

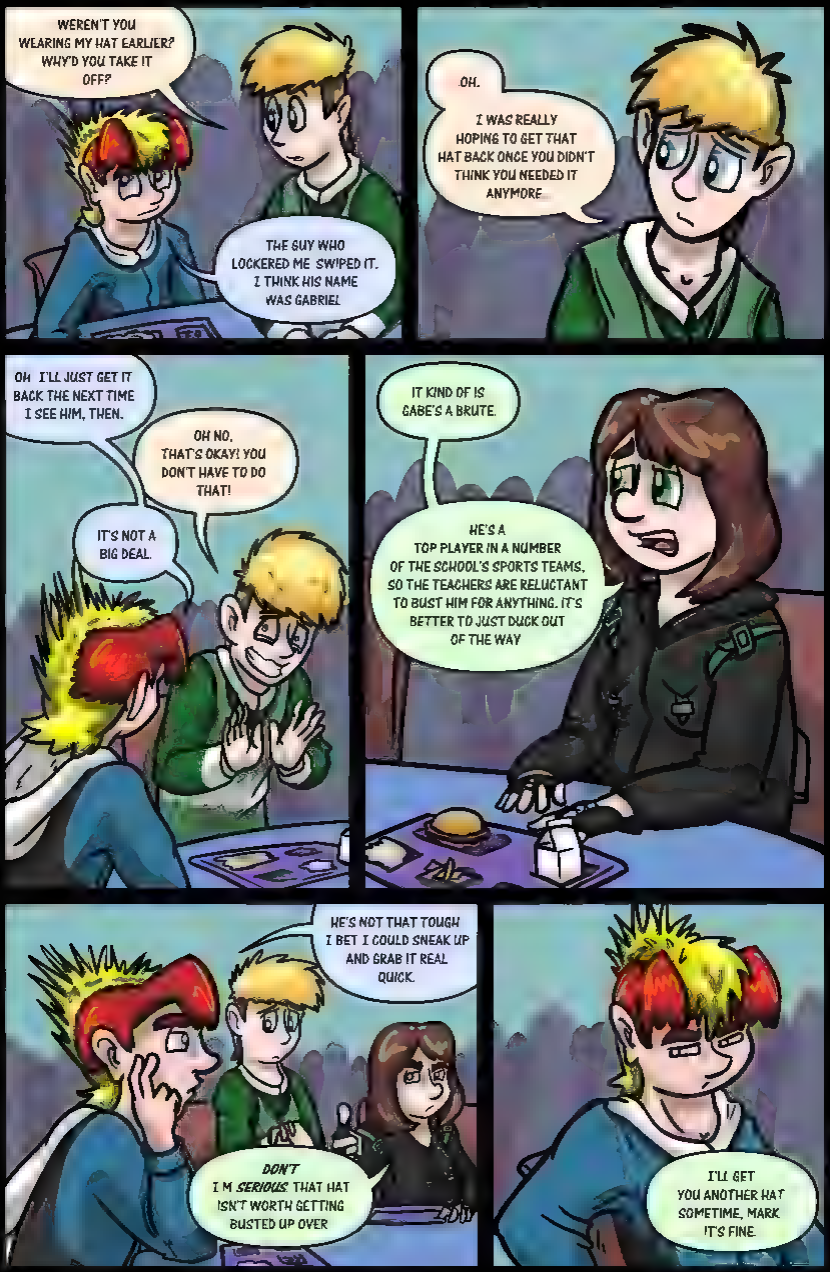
THIS ONE?
YEAH
GOOD. NOW GET OFF TO CLASS
ALRIGHT. COME OUT
THANKS--
WHOA THERE. WHAT'VE YOU GOT GOING ON UPSTAIRS. HUH?
A PASS? OH, THAT'S RIGHT, I GOT AN EMAIL ABOUT YOU.
WELL I SUPPOSE I CAN'T STOP YOU, BUT THINK MAYBE YOU'RE PUSHING YOUR LUCK?
WHAT?
I KNOW THEY'RE NOT HOLDING YOU TO THE HAIR POLICY, BUT YOU MAY BE *INVITING* THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR WALKING AROUND LIKE THAT
DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR BOSS TOLD YOU, BUT THIS ISN'T *MY* FAULT.
MAYBE NOT, BUT JUST SEEMS YOU'RE ASKING TO GET SHOVED IN A LOCKER. AND I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO LET YOU OUT EVERY TIME
HOW [redacted] THAT WOULD BE FOR YOU

YOU WERE CAPABLE OF FREEING YOURSELF FROM THAT LOCKER WITHOUT ASSISTANCE. WHY WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO OPEN IT FOR YOU?
WHY ALLOW THE LOUD ADOLESCENT TO PUSH YOU INTO THAT LOCKER IN THE FIRST PLACE?
YOU ARE ANGRY WITH ME AGAIN.
SHUT UP. TAKEO
IS THAT A COMMAND, OR WILL YOU SNAP AT ME FOR NOT SHARING INFORMATION WITH YOU AGAIN?
SOCCER TRYOUTS
YOU SAID YOURSELF I SHOULDN'T SHOW OFF MY POWERS, BUT NOW YOU WANT ME TO BEAT UP A BULLY?
I DID NOT SAY THAT I WAS ONLY SUGGESTING--
I CAN'T TALK TO YOU IN PUBLIC. SOMEBODY MIGHT NOTICE.
BUT THAT DOES NOT STOP YOU FROM LISTENING TO ME, CORRECT?
I WOULD THINK YOUR ABILITIES AT LEAST OFFER YOU A BETTER SOLUTION--
IF YOU'VE GOT ALL THIS FIGURED OUT, THEN WHY DON'T YOU DEAL WITH HIM NEXT TIME HE'S IN MY FACE?
OH, WHAT'S THAT? YOU'RE JUST A VOICE AND YOU CAN'T?

OH, I JUST LOVE THAT BAND! THE BASS PLAYER IS SO CUTE!
I KNOW, RIGHT?!
..WOULD YOU SHUT UP?! I CAN'T HEAR MYSELF THINK!
ARE YOU TALKING TO US?! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?!
YEAH! YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY PAL?!
FILM CLUB
THAT BAND SUCKS. THEY HAVEN'T PUT OUT ANYTHING GOOD IN YEARS!
LIKE YOUR OPINION MATTERS!
HE'S RIGHT THOUGH.
HEY, TACO-HEAD! HALLOWEEN WAS THREE MONTHS AGO!
WELL I'LL LET FRANKENSTEIN KNOW HE LEFT HIS DAUGHTERS HERE!
SCREW YOU, ASSHOLE!
I DID NOT HEAR THEM. HOW DID YOU KNOW WHAT GROUP THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT?
I DIDN'T. LET'S JUST GO

... SO HOW'S YOUR FIRST DAY GOING?
I'VE ALREADY SEEN THE PRINCIPAL, BEEN SHOVED IN A LOCKER, I'M GETTING CALLED ALL VARIATIONS OF BLITZ PHOENIX.
PEOPLE KEEP PULLING MY HOOD DOWN IN THE HALLWAYS AND I'VE HEARD THE SAME HALLOWEEN JOKE TWENTY TIMES.
SO, YOU KNOW, BASICALLY WHAT I EXPECTED
CH-CHCK!
EL OH EL DUMB KID THINKS HE'S BLITZ PHOENIX.
I'M GONNA GET SO MANY LIKES FOR THIS.
I HATE EVERYONE.
JUST GIVE IT A FEW WEEKS TO BLOW OVER. ONCE IT'S OLD NEWS, NOBODY WILL CARE.
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT!
I DON'T. BUT GETTING MAD AT PEOPLE WILL ONLY ENCOURAGE THEM. TRUST ME.


HOW'D YOU GET THE TEACHERS TO LEAVE YOU ALONE?
MY UNCLE CAME IN AND TOLD THEM I HAVE A DISEASE, AND THEY BOUGHT IT
OH, THAT EXPLAINS THE RUMORS I HEARD
PEOPLE WERE SAYING YOU HAD CANCER AND THAT IT'D A WIG
CANCER?
THAT.. MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BETTER IDEA
BETTER THAN WHAT?
HAIRITIS
...DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
YOU KNOW -ITIS MEANS INFLAMMATION, RIGHT?
I DO NOW!
THIS SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF TROUBLE TO KEEP AN UGLY HAIRCUT
WELL I THINK IT LOOKS COOL
IT'S NOT THAT BAD
WHY DO YOU KEEP SWITCHING FROM "I LIKE IT" AND "IT'S RUINING MY LIFE"? WANNA MAKE UP YOUR MIND?
NO THANKS


WEREN'T YOU WEARING MY HAT EARLIER? WHY'D YOU TAKE IT OFF?
THE GUY WHO LOCKERED ME SWIPED IT. I THINK HIS NAME WAS GABRIEL
OH.
I WAS REALLY HOPING TO GET THAT HAT BACK ONCE YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU NEEDED IT ANYMORE.
OH I'LL JUST GET IT BACK THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM, THEN.
OH NO, THAT'S OKAY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT!
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
IT KIND OF IS GABE'S A BRUTE.
HE'S A TOP PLAYER IN A NUMBER OF THE SCHOOL'S SPORTS TEAMS, SO THE TEACHERS ARE RELUCTANT TO BUST HIM FOR ANYTHING. IT'S BETTER TO JUST DUCK OUT OF THE WAY
HE'S NOT THAT TOUGH I BET I COULD SNEAK UP AND GRAB IT REAL QUICK.
DON'T I M SERIOUS THAT HAT ISN'T WORTH GETTING BUSTED UP OVER
I'LL GET YOU ANOTHER HAT SOMETIME, MARK IT'S FINE.

OH, HEY! HOW'S IT GOING?
EIGHT
PARDON?
EIGHT KIDS SO FAR HAVE ASKED IF I CAN SCORE THEM ALL SORTS OF DRUGS.
YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?
I'M SURPRISED IT'S ONLY EIGHT. I MEAN, JUST LOOK AT YOU. NO ONE COMES TO SCHOOL LOOKING LIKE THAT SOBER.
SO YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT?
WHY WOULD I?
BECAUSE THREE OF THEM ALSO WANTED FIREWORKS.
SO DID YOU GIVE THEM SOME?
THE HELL YOU SPREADING RUMORS ABOUT ME FOR, JESSICA?
IT'S FUN
THINGS HAVE BEEN PRETTY DULL AROUND HERE LATELY I'M JUST TRYING TO LIVEN THE PLACE UP
YOU'VE GIVEN ME A GOOD BIT OF AMMO. SO I'M TRYING TO BE CREATIVE.

SPEAKING OF CREATIVE...
HAIRITIS? REALLY?
YOU'RE MAKING A FOOL OF YOURSELF JUST FINE WITHOUT MY HELP.
THOUGH I STILL DON'T GET WHY UNLESS..
WAIT! DOESN'T MARK REALLY LIKE THAT CARTOON?
OH MY GOD. THAT'S IT! YOU'RE DATING MARK, AREN'T YOU?! THAT'S SO ADORABLE!
WHAT?! NO!
I KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE! IF YOU GO TELLING PEOPLE THAT--
YOU WANT YOUR HAT BACK, DON'T YOU?
HERE. YOU'VE HAD A ROUGH DAY. SO I'LL GIVE YOU A BREAK FIND ME BEHIND THE BUILDING AFTER SCHOOL. I'LL HAVE IT FOR YOU
DON'T BRING YOUR FRIENDS, THOUGH I'D RATHER NOT TALK TO THEM

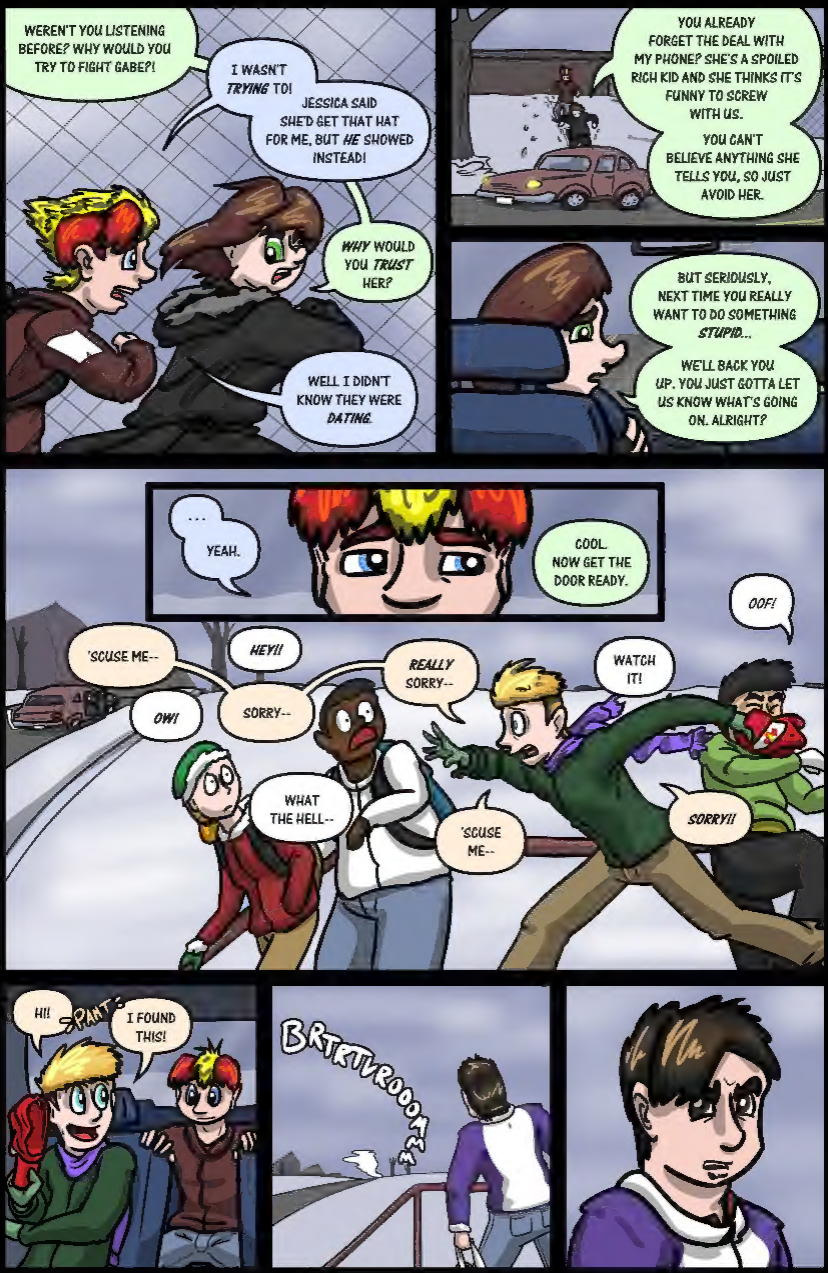
MISS JESSICA'S RESIDENCE IS ADJACENT TO YOUR UNCLE'S WHY WOULD SHE HAVE YOU MEET HER HERE?
I DON'T KNOW. PROBABLY 'CAUSE HER DAD'S A DOUCHE?
THIS IS FINE. I DON'T WANT TO GO OVER THERE, ANYWAY
SHE SURE IS TAKING HER TIME. THOUGH WHERE IS SHE?
SHE'S NOT COMING
THOKK!

THE HELL YOU DOING TALKING TO JESSIE?! YOU TRYING TO STEAL MY GIRL?!
SHE'S YOUR--
WHMP!
I WASN'T TRYING ANYTHING AND I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS YOUR GIRLFRIEND! NOW LET ME GO!
NO CHANCE! I DON'T LIKE YOUR HAIR, I DON'T LIKE YOUR FACE, AND I SURE AS HELL DON'T LIKE YOUR MOUTH!
I DON'T GIVE A FLYING FUCK WHAT YOU KNEW, BUT I'LL MAKE SURE YOU THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU SO MUCH AS LOOK AT JESSIE AGAIN!

OH FUCK OFF! I'VE PUT UP WITH ENOUGH OF YOUR SHIT TODAY!
PUT ME DOWN NOW OR I'LL BE FORCED TO
RAPING
I HURT YOU?
AHAHAHA!!
YOU HURT ME?! ARE YOU CRAZY OR JUST STUPID?
YOU'D HURT YOURSELF TRYING, YOU DUMB NERD!

WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED? WAS THAT REAL ?
COME ON, GET UP! I WANNA SEE YOU TRY.
YOU WANNA HURT ME? HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU A FREE SHOT! HIT ME HARD AS YOU CAN, BLITZER!
THEN ONCE YOU'RE DONE EMBARRASSING YOURSELF, WE CAN GET BACK TO YOUR BEATDOWN.
FINE!
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT...!

I'm sorry
I'm sorry
I'm sorry
I'm sorry
I'm sorry
I'm sorry
HUH?
HEY!!
THAT'S MY STUFF! GET BACK HERE, YOU SHITTY STUPID FAGGOT!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?! COME ON!


WEREN'T YOU LISTENING BEFORE? WHY WOULD YOU TRY TO FIGHT GABE?!
I WASN'T *TRYING* TO!
JESSICA SAID SHE'D GET THAT HAT FOR ME, BUT *HE* SHOWED INSTEAD!
WHY WOULD YOU *TRUST* HER?
WELL I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE *DATING*.
YOU ALREADY FORGET THE DEAL WITH MY PHONE? SHE'S A SPOILED RICH KID AND SHE THINKS IT'S FUNNY TO SCREW WITH US.
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE ANYTHING SHE TELLS YOU, SO JUST AVOID HER.
BUT SERIOUSLY, NEXT TIME YOU REALLY WANT TO DO SOMETHING *STUPID*...
WE'LL BACK YOU UP. YOU JUST GOTTA LET US KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. ALRIGHT?
...
YEAH.
COOL. NOW GET THE DOOR READY.
OOF!
'SCUSE ME--
HEY!!
REALLY SORRY--
WATCH IT!
OW!
SORRY--
WHAT THE HELL--
'SCUSE ME--
SORRY!!
HI!
I FOUND THIS!
BRTKTVROOOM
SMASH

THANKS FOR THE HELP. THAT COULD HAVE ENDED BADLY.
SURE! THIS JUST MEANS YOU HAVE TO DO IT FOR US SOMETIME.
I AM IMPRESSED THOUGH, IT LOOKED LIKE HE DECKED YOU PRETTY GOOD, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A SCRATCH ON YOU.
I, UH, I'M KIND OF A PUNCHING BAG, I CAN TAKE A HIT.
WELL, GOOD... I GUESS...?
LOOK, I KNOW IT SUCKS BEING NEW...
AND I DON'T SEE WHY YOU'RE KEEPING THAT HAIRCUT, BUT I GET THE HINT YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. THAT'S FINE.
DON'T FEED THE BEAST AND NOBODY WILL CARE HOW YOU LOOK SOON ENOUGH, GOT IT?
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
OH, AND UH... DON'T BELIEVE THE RUMORS YOU MIGHT HEAR ABOUT ME. ANY OF THEM.
SAME ABOUT US! SEE YA TOMORROW!

I AM HAVING TROUBLE PARSING MUCH OF WHAT HAPPENED TODAY.
YOU AREN'T MISSING MUCH. IT'S *HIGH SCHOOL*.
THINGS ARE GONNA BE WEIRD FOR A WHILE. I NEED TO GET USED TO DEALING WITH PEOPLE ABOUT HOW I LOOK.
AND...
... *TAKEO*... DID YOU SEE THAT *DOG*?
I SEE EVERYTHING YOU SEE.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT WAS?
AN ASSOCIATION-BASED STRESS HALLUCINATION.
I WOULD ADVISE YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM THE LARGE EGOTISTICAL BOY IF YOU WISH TO AVOID REPEATING IT.
I CAN TRY, BUT I STILL HAVE CLASSES WITH HIM.
YOU HAVE THE CHOICE TO NOT RETURN TO THAT ESTABLISHMENT.
WHY? JUST TO GET A JOB AND HAVE TO DEAL WITH ASSHOLES THERE, TOO?
THIS IS STILL BETTER THAN THAT LAB. AS LONG AS I STICK WITH NAT AND MARK, IT CAN'T BE *THAT* BAD.
IT'S EASIER FOR EVERYONE TO THINK I'M AN IDIOT THAN DEAL WITH THE TRUTH.
...
...*MAAAYBE* I SHOULDN'T STAND OUT IN THE FRONT YARD TALKING TO MYSELF.
END